

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 14, 2020

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 31:1-14 (p. 794 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;

be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the LORD.

I will be glad and rejoice in your love,

for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;

my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors;

I am a dread to my friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.

I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side;

they conspire against me and plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee! Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, you are rich in mercy to all those who call upon you. Hear us as we come before you to confess our sins and ask for your forgiveness.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others, and that we have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

Leader: Cause us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Job 1

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 355

We Are God's People

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once giv'n:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 39. *What is the duty that God requires of man?*

A. The duty that God requires of man is obedience to his revealed will.

Q. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?*

A. The rule that God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

Q. 41. *Where is the moral law found to be summarized?*

A. The moral law is found summarized in the Ten Commandments.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading

John 9

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11])

Hymn 48

O Lord Most High, with All My Heart

O Lord Most High, with all my heart your wondrous works I will proclaim;
I will be glad and give you thanks and sing the praises of your name.

The Lord, the everlasting King, is seated on his judgment throne;
The righteous Judge of all the world will make his perfect justice known.

Jehovah will a refuge prove, a refuge strong for all oppressed,
A safe retreat, where weary souls in troubled times may surely rest.

All they, O Lord, that know your Name their confidence in you will place,
For you have ne'er forsaken them who earnestly have sought your face.

Sing praises to the Lord Most High, to him who does in Zion dwell;
Declare his mighty deeds abroad, his deeds among the nations tell. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 55:22)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“All Things for Good”
John 9:1-3

- I. The Bible teaches us that life is characterized by suffering.
Suffering is the result of Adam’s sin (Romans 5:12).
Suffering takes many forms (Hebrews 11:35-38).
Suffering is not meaningless (John 9:3; Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28).
- II. The Bible teaches us that God has many reasons why he ordains suffering for his people.
 1. To reveal, deter, and mortify sin (2 Corinthians 12:7)
 2. To produce godliness and spiritual fruit (Romans 5:3-5)
 3. To reveal the character of God (Job 42:2)
 4. To make us yearn for heaven (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
 5. To produce a sincere faith, without hypocrisy (1 Peter 1:6-7)
 6. To encourage fellowship with God through the means of grace (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 7. To bear witness to the world (1 Peter 4:19)
 8. To cultivate greater communion with Christ, the greatest sufferer (Philippians 3:10)

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 164

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ’tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin, he sets the pris’ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen’d tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy. Amen.

Benediction

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor,
rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 27 gives us a wonderful and comforting definition of God's providence: *What do you understand by the providence of God?*

God's providence is his almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

The catechism summarizes the Bible's teaching that nothing that happens to us in this life is the result of *karma* or chance, but that God directs all things according to the counsel of his own will (Ephesians 1:11). God's purpose will be established, and he will accomplish all his good pleasure (Isaiah 46:8-11). Knowing this truth gives us reason to live in faith and not in fear, and it helps prepare us to endure the difficulties we face in this life.

1. For review, read John 8:48-59. What was Jesus saying about himself in verse 58? Why did some of those who heard Jesus say this want to kill him?
2. Read John 9:1-2. What were the disciples assuming by their question? What was wrong with their theology? Why do you think this way of reasoning is a common error even among those who call themselves Christians?
3. Read John 9:3. What was Jesus teaching his disciples through his answer?
4. Review each of the 8 reasons that we learned in the sermon on why God ordains suffering for his people, along with the corresponding Scripture passages. Have you experienced some or all of these in your life when you suffered? How is your faith different as a result?
5. In preparation for next week, read the rest of John 9. What do you think is the significance of this healing miracle? Do you notice any irony in the passage?

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, June 15

Scripture: 1 Kings 14:1 - 15:24; Acts 10:1-23; Psalm 133:1-3; Proverbs 17:7-8
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 7
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, June 16

Scripture: 1 Kings 15:25 - 17:24; Acts 10:24-48; Psalm 134:1-3; Proverbs 17:9-11
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, June 17

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:1-46; Acts 11:1-30; Psalm 135:1-21; Proverbs 17:12-13
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Turkey and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, June 18

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-21; Acts 12:1-23; Psalm 136:1-26; Proverbs 17:14-15
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 22
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, June 19

Scripture: 1 Kings 20:1 - 21:29; Acts 12:24 - 13:15; Psalm 137:1-9; Proverbs 17:16
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 23
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, June 20

Scripture: 1 Kings 22:1-53; Acts 13:16-41; Psalm 138:1-8; Proverbs 17:17-18
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 24
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, June 21

Scripture: 2 Kings 1:1 - 2:25; Acts 13:42 - 14:7; Psalm 139:1-24; Proverbs 17:19-21
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 25
Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

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